Report regarding assesment of poverty

†3902. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report regarding assessment of poverty at national level for the year 2004-05 has been issued by the Planning Commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that the figures obtained after the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation through Uniform Recall Period (URP) and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) method of Government are contradictory rather than uniformity; and

(c) if so, the view of Government in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has estimated the number and percentage of poor at national and state level for the year 2004-05. These estimates were released on 21st March 2007.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor;' (Lakadwala Committee).

On the basis of the latest large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure (61st Round of NSS) covering the period July, 2004 to June, 2005 [Report No. 508 (61.1.0.1)], two different consumption distributions for the year 2004-05 have been obtained. The first one from the consumption data collected using 30-day recall period (also known as reference period) for all the items. The other distribution is obtained from the consumer expenditure data collected using 365-day recall period for five infrequently purchased non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses and 30-day recall period for the remaining items. These two consumption distributions have been termed as Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) consumption distribution respectively. The Planning Commission, using the Expert Group methodology has estimated poverty in 2004-05 using both the distributions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The poverty estimates in 2004-05 based on URP consumption distribution is comparable with the poverty estimates of 1993-94, estimated by the Planning Commission from NSS large sample survey of household consumer expenditure data of the 50th Round (July 1993-June 1994). The poverty estimates in 2004-05 based on MRP consumption is roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000, estimated by the Planning Commission from NSS large sample survey of household consumer expenditure data of the 55th Round (July 1999-June 2000).

The poverty estimate of 2004-05 based on URP consumption distribution and MRP consumption distribution are 27.5% and 21.8% respectively. The poverty estimates of 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are estimated as 36% and 26.1% respectively.

To ensure comparability of the poverty estimates of the recent years, the Planning Commission in December 2005 constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar with the following terms of reference:

(i) To examine the issues relating to the comparability of the 50th, 55th and 61st round, and to suggest methodologies for deriving such comparability with past and future surveys.

(ii) To review alternative conceptualizations of poverty, and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across states.

(iii) In the light of (ii), to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.

Central Himalayan Development Authority

†3903. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to constitute Central Himalayan Development Authority for proper development of States of this part of the land keeping in view the environment importance of Central Himalaya;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.